

Memo



To: Town Council

From: Shirley A. Freeman, Assistant Town Manager

Date: August 4, 2010

Subject: Accommodations Tax Committee Recommendations

Town of Bluffton
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Recommendation: Town Council reviews for consideration the Accommodations Tax Committee recommendations for funding from their August 3, 2010, meeting. Additionally, a funding decision is needed from Council as the Committee could not vote on the application submitted by the Old Town Bluffton Merchants Society. One of the committee members is affiliated with this organization resulting in a lack of quorum.

Summary: As expected, State and Local Accommodations Tax revenues are up for the quarter ending June of 2010. This is historically the highest quarter of the year. The State Accommodations Tax was up \$7,000 over prior year and Local Accommodations Tax up \$15,500. The amount of funds available for this quarter's applications is \$92,493.

Accommodations Tax Committee Recommendations:

Requests for Quarter Ending June 30, 2010	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Bluffton Historical Preservation Society, Inc.	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Historic Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Lowcountry Tourism Commission	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
The May River Theatre Company	\$ 9,500	\$ 9,500
Old Town Bluffton Merchants Society	\$ 9,487	
Total	\$ 55,987	\$ 46,500

A report of previously funded grants is attached for your convenience. Additionally, the Committee Meeting minutes are attached for your review as well.

ATAX Report
8/4/2010

Applications Received June 30, 2009		Amount Requested	Advisory Committee Recommendation	Town Council Approved	Source of Funding	Paid FY2010	Remaining
Heyward House Historic Center (Bluffton Historical Preservation Society)		\$ 99,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	Local ATAX	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Old Town Bluffton Merchant Society		\$ 14,472	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	Local ATAX	\$ 7,000	\$ -
The May River Theatre Company		\$ 12,385	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	Local ATAX	\$ 3,000	\$ -
Historic Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival		\$ 15,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	Local ATAX	\$ 5,000	\$ -
Total Grants for 1st Quarter Payments		\$ 140,857	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000	\$ -
Applications Received September 30, 2009							
Heyward House Historic Center (Bluffton Historical Preservation Society)		\$ 25,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 20,500	Local ATAX	\$ 20,500	\$ -
Hilton Head Choral Society - 2009 Christmas Tour and Youth Choir		\$ 3,235	\$ 2,500	\$ -			\$ -
Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance - Motoring Festival		\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -
Historic Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival		\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	Local ATAX	\$ 5,000	\$ -
The May River Theatre Company		\$ 5,200	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	Local ATAX	\$ 5,000	\$ -
Old Town Bluffton Merchant Society		\$ 7,470	\$ 6,700	\$ 6,700	Local ATAX	\$ 6,700	\$ -
Lowcountry Tourism Commission & Visitors Center & Museum		\$ 9,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -			\$ -
Total Grant for 2nd Quarter Payments		\$ 64,905	\$ 37,200	\$ 37,200		\$ 37,200	\$ -
Applications Received December 31, 2009							
Heyward House Historic Center (Bluffton Historical Preservation Society)		\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	State ATAX	\$ 25,000	\$ -
Farmers Market of Bluffton		\$ 12,320	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	Local ATAX	\$ 2,520	\$ 6,480
HHI Concours d'Elegance Inc.		\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -
Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra		\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -
Historic Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival		\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	Local ATAX		\$ 5,000
The May River Theatre Company		\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	Local ATAX	\$ 5,000	\$ -
Old Town Bluffton Merchant Society		\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	Local ATAX	\$ 7,000	\$ -
Total Grants for 3rd Quarter Payments		\$ 70,320	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000		\$ 39,520	\$ 11,480
Applications Received March 31, 2010							
Heyward House Historic Center (Bluffton Historical Preservation Society)		\$ 25,000	\$ 18,710	\$ 22,710	Local ATAX	\$ 2,998	\$ 19,712
Bluffton Village Festival		\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 4,000	Local ATAX	\$ 4,000	\$ -
Farmers Market of Bluffton		\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	Local ATAX		\$ 5,000
HHI Concours d'Elegance Inc.		\$ 5,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -			\$ -
The May River Theatre Company		\$ 4,500	\$ 4,000	\$ -			\$ -
Old Town Bluffton Merchant Society		\$ 10,000	\$ 7,800	\$ 7,800	Local ATAX	\$ 5,310	\$ 2,490
The HanMeDown Gullah Museum		\$ 5,707	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	Local ATAX		\$ 5,000
		\$ 60,207	\$ 44,510	\$ 44,510		\$ 12,308	\$ 32,202
Grand Total		\$ 336,289	\$ 157,710	\$ 157,710		\$ 114,028	\$ 43,682

ACCOMMODATIONS TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 3, 2010

Acting Chairman Ted Huffman called to meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Other committee members present were Barrett Collins, Chip King and Michael Reeves. Shirley Freeman, Trisha Greathouse and Sandra Lunceford were also in attendance.

Discussion was held on having a workshop to review application procedures and to elect officers.

Freeman announced \$92,493 was the available funds for the total requests of \$55,987.

The Committee's recommendations following the Applicants' presentations were as follows:

1. Bluffton Historical Preservation Society, Inc. – \$25,000.
Barrett moved to approve their request of \$25,000. King seconded. Vote was unanimous.
2. Historical Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival, Inc. – \$5,000.
King moved to approve their request of \$5,000. Reeves seconded. Vote was unanimous.
3. Lowcountry Tourism Commission & Lowcountry Visitors Center & Museum – \$7,000.
Barrett moved to approve their request of \$7,000. King seconded. Vote was unanimous.
4. May River Theatre Co., Inc. – \$9,500.
Reeves moved to approve their request of \$9,500. Huffman seconded. Vote was unanimously.
5. Old Town Bluffton Merchants Society - \$9,487.
6. **King moved to defer the decision to Town Council due to not having a quorum (Huffman is a member of Old Town Merchants Society). Barrett seconded. Vote was unanimously.**

Reeves moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. King seconded. Vote was unanimous.